MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC AMERICA foundation

empowering youth with disabilities to lead productive lives

MEAF e-NEWS **July 2013**

In This Issue

AAPD Justice for All Awards
Youth in Development Interns
Champions of Change
Project Search, Celebrating Employment Outcomes
A Visit to Ohio Opens Doors
USBLN Career Link Mentoring
Deadlines and Reminders

AAPD's Justice for All Awards - Recognizes Summer Interns

The American Association of People with Disabilities held its annual *Justice for All* Awards ceremony on Capitol Hill on June 23rd.

The 2013 class of 30 MEAF-supported AAPD Summer Interns were recognized at the event for completing their internships.

In honor of the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the interns shared an inspiring video at the event about what the ADA means to them.

MEAF is a long time supporter of AAPD with current grants for the *Summer Internship Program* and *Disability Mentoring Day*, which prepare youth with disabilities for the workforce.

White House honors Champions of Change

On July 25th, the White House recognized eight Champions of Change who embody the spirit of the American with Disabilities Act.

Five of the individuals who were recognized have participated in MEAF supported programs:

- **Lydia Brown,** a student at George Washington University, was an AAPD Intern and participated in the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network's Campus Inclusion Project
- **Zoe Gross**, a student at Vassar College, was an AAPD Intern and participated in the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network's Campus Inclusion Project
- **Andrew Phillips**, the Policy Counsel at the National Association of the Deaf, was an *AAPD Intern*
- **Anupa Iyer**, founder of Self Advocates Now Empowered, was an *AAPD Intern*
- **Ki'tay Davidson**, a student at American University, was a

AAPD 2013 Summer Interns Video

Congratulations to the 2013 Class of Youth in Development Interns

The US International Council on Disabilities hosted its inaugural class of MEAF-supported *Youth in Development* (YiD) interns in Washington, DC this summer.

2013 Graduating Class of Youth in Development Interns, pictured with MEAF Director Kevin Webb, USICD board and staff members

Meet the 2013 Class of YiD Interns

---

participant in the USICD Youth in Development Internship Program

The White House also recognized **Zach Garafalo**, **Anjali Forber-Pratt** and **Desiree Moore**. Congratulations to all of these Champions of Change!

Project SEARCH, Celebrating Employment Outcomes

From July 15-19th, Project SEARCH held their 7th annual conference. MEAF has been a long time supporter of Project SEARCH with an initial grant back in 2003 to help Project SEARCH expand its model across the US. The *Project SEARCH High School Transition Program is a unique, business led, one year school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace.* Project SEARCH boasts an average of 60% placement rate at 235 sites around the world for their interns with developmental disabilities.

Project | SEARCH

The current grant with Project Search allowed them to analyze their sites that achieve 90-100% placement rates and help other sites achieve the same. MEAF was proud to attend the training session this year at the pre-conference and meet some amazing Project Search employees providing opportunities for people with disabilities to demonstrate their skills on the job!

A Visit to Ohio, Opens Doors

MEAF would like to introduce two members of the new committee: **AC/DC-MEUS/Arlington**. Kevin Webb, Director of MEAF (left) and Lien Randle, Manager for the Elevator and Escalator Division (right) are shown volunteering at the MEAF Workshop this past June in Surf City, California.

The **HOPE Committee from MEPPI/Warrendale** has been very active this summer with volunteer projects ranging from on-site fundraisers, marathons, and clean-up days! Here is a dedicated group of employee volunteers at The Woodlands.

Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation
1560 Wilson Boulevard,
Suite 1150
Arlington, Virginia 22209
www.meaf.org
mea.foundation@meus.mea.com
703.276.8240

After attending the Project SEARCH pre-conference, MEAF staff joined the **ECHO Committee of MEAA/Mason** in preparing for next year's MEAF Volunteer Leadership Workshop in Cincinnati, OH!

David from ECHO (left) and Kevin from MEAF (right) take a test to determine what some of their best job options are.

Our visit brought us to several local restaurants and sites in and around the city and tours of local non-profits like Stepping Stones and Easter Seals Tri-State. We learned about ECHO's hands-on volunteering with students at the Stepping Stones camp and walked their beautiful facility. In addition, Easter Seals Tri-State shared all their efforts to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities from job fairs to Project SEARCH sites and their *Building Ability* program that uses donated materials from **Mitsubishi Electric Automotive America**. Students with disabilities create several woodworking pieces from chairs to cornhole games, which they sell.

MEAF is proud and excited to share these best practices with other employee volunteers at next year's workshop.

USBLN Career Link Mentoring Program

Join Our Mailing List

Send to a Colleague

Want to see more?
Check out MEAF's new social media sites.

Like, Follow and Visit us today!

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on twitter

View our videos on YouTube

Have you heard about MEAF's support of the US Business Leadership Network's Career Link Mentoring Program?

Business Leadership Network
USBLN
DISABILITY AT WORK

The Career Link Mentoring Program aims to provide a 6-month career mentoring opportunity to 40-50 college students and recent graduates with disabilities through linkages to business professionals from USBLN® member companies.

Listen to Mylene Padolina talk about the Youth Initiatives Program

Meet an intern, check out page 2

USBLN also hosted an **Employment Summit** at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on July 25th, where they issued a Leading Practices on Inclusion handbook highlighting innovative strategies to employ people with disabilities at leading companies.

Deadlines and Reminders

Mitsubishi Electric Volunteer Committees
Employee Representative Nominations due August 2nd
MELCO Philanthropy Reports due August 2nd
StarfishNET Call on August 14th

National Grant Partners
Interim Reports due August 31st

Forward this email